# Montana Newsletter

***Montana State Library***

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PLEASE UPDATE
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NO. 46 JULY/AUGUST 1996

The Montana State Library Commission and the Montana State Library Staff cordially invite you to attend an Open House to welcome our new State Librarian Karen Strege on August 20, 1996, Tuesday from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Montana State Library in Helena!

## State Library Notes

**New State Librarian:** Montana State Library Commission chair Peggy Guthrie of Choteau has announced that Karen Strege of Spokane, Washington has accepted the position of state librarian. Strege, who holds a master's degree in library science from the University of Washington, will begin her duties on August 5th. She says she is "looking forward to working with the Library Commission, State Library staff, and librarians, trustees and friends to improve services for all Montana citizens."

Guthrie said Strege was one of three finalists for the position, vacated in April after Richard Miller left to accept a position in Nebraska. The Library Commission interviewed finalists after a search committee looked at applications and narrowed the field. The search committee, which Guthrie chaired, began work in January after receiving Miller's resignation.

Strege was born in Richland, Washington. She has been a librarian for 17 years and held positions in Moscow and Sandpoint, Idaho, where she was a director of the Bonner County Library. For five years she was a highly-respected library consultant for the State Library of Idaho and is past president of the Idaho Library Association. She is completing her dissertation requirement for the doctoral program in educational leadership at Gonzaga University.

Strege and her husband, Hank Voderberg, who is a middle-school teacher and computer trainer, have four children in college and one child at home. They enjoy skiing, hiking, playing bridge and gardening.

Guthrie said, "The Commission is very pleased about being able to hire Ms. Strege. We feel she is the right person to lead the Montana libraries into the 21st century, and we look forward to welcoming her and her family to Montana.

**1996 Family Reading Manual Correction:** Artwork for the 1996 Family Reading Program 7th-9th grade winner, **Kelly Wiles** was not featured in this year's "Everyone a Winner ....Read!!!" manual. The artwork shown was from another contestant, Travis Hanson. We do not want Montana libraries to miss seeing Kelly's talents, so the Montana State Library plans to feature Kelly's work on the WEB, sometime in the near future.

**Harold L. Chambers Retires:** Harold L. Chambers is gone from the Montana State Library. For nearly 24 years, Harold served and worked at the Montana State Library in a variety of positions. Harold stated in his letter of resignation that his greatest joys came from being of service to the patrons, staff, and libraries. He will be greatly missed at the Montana State Library, as well as across Montana. Librarians and patrons all over Montana have benefited from Harold's steadfast, caring service. He turned the toughest cataloging challenge into a victory for even the non-cataloguer. He turned the really hard reference inquiries into a mystery game. Harold never gave up -- all questions were answered. Harold helped staff and other librarians around Montana realize just what a great storehouse of information the federal publications program is. Harold has joined his family in Idaho. We wish him well in all his new adventures. We thank him for his many fine years of service.

Some other facts about Harold:

- → Harold began working for the State Historical Society in August 1969 holding the positions of cataloger and reference librarian.
- → He joined the Montana State Library in July of 1972 and has held the positions of: documents librarian, reference librarian, director of reference services, director of technical services, collections management librarian, federal publications coordinator, and the director of the state publications distribution center.
- → He has worked for seven state librarians: David Hoffman, Alma Jacobs, Alene Cooper, Sara Parker, Debbie Schlesinger, Richard Miller, and Darlene Staffeldt.

Miller, and Darlene Staffeldt.

→ He is Montana's recognized expert on the Library of Congress's Name Authority Project. Harold has established over 2500 name authority records with LC.

→ In 1990, Harold worked with documents librarians throughout the state to produce the first Federal Publications Plan for Montana.

→ In May 1992, Harold was recognized as the State Library's Employee of the Year and received the Governor's Award for Excellence in Performance.

**1996 DIRECTORY CHANGES**

**New E-Mail Addresses:**

**Dave Pauli, Director, Missoula Public Library: dpauli@mtlib.org**

**Emory Robotham, Director, Glendive Public Library: 2maizey@initco.net**

**New Director: Bernadette Evans has retired as director of the Mineral County Public Library in Superior. She was replaced by Shawna Mesenbrink.**

**MONTANA STATE LIBRARY HONORS VOLUNTEERS:** The more than 80 volunteers who serve the Montana State Library were honored at a dinner held on Friday, May 31 at the Great Divide Lodge. The event was attended by 64 volunteers and many spouses and guests.

Mrs. Freddie Peaco, Government Information and Volunteer Specialist from the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped in Washington, DC., was the guest speaker for the evening. Peaco highlighted the important role volunteers play in providing library service to people who are blind or physically handicapped all over the country. She paid special tribute to the Telephone Pioneers, who contribute many hours repairing the playback equipment used by the Talking Book Library patrons.

JoAnn Mayala was honored as the "Narrator of the Year" in the Talking Book Library Montana Cassette Recording program. JoAnn has volunteered the library for more than 8 years and has recorded 17 books.

Bev Hill received the 'We Can Count on You' award for her willingness to tackle any task that needs to be done.

Volunteers recognized for 5 years of service were: Mary Nichols, Edith Tanna, Ray Venzke, Cyd Slattery, John DeHaas, Millie Huxley, Ruth Ann Massey, Bob Vanisko, Ted Robbins, Ed Hartman.

Each volunteer was presented a stained glass heart which had been hand crafted by State Library Staff during evenings and weekends.

In 1995 volunteers donated 14,900 hours of service to the Montana State Library. Many of these volunteers work in the Montana Talking Book Library.

**Family Reading Program Manual for 1997:** Due to conflicting priorities and time constraints, the Montana State Library staff will not be taking the lead role in the development of the 1997 Family Reading Program Manual. We have received mixed messages on the Family Reading Program Manual about whether or not it should receive the bulk of our "children's or youth" services consulting time. Since OPI's library/media specialist position has been cut back, the State Library has received more and more calls from school librarians, as well as public librarians, on services to youth.

The State Library will be cooperating with Montana Library Association's Children's and Young Adult (CAYA) Interest Group to produce, print, and distribute the 1997 manual. The MLA's CAYA Interest Group members did vote on the 1997 reading theme "Happy Tales to You." This can cover a broad range of topics from Western stories and rodeos to folktales and fairytales. It could also include animal tales/tails. Please send program ideas, clip art, action rhymes, finger plays, songs and stories, puppetry and creative dramatics and publicity ideas by January 15, 1997 to Candice Morris at Lewis & Clark Library, 120 S. Last Chance Gulch, Helena, Mt 59601 Fax 1-406-447-1687 or E-mail cmorris@mtlib.org.

**NRIS Wins Award:** The Urban & Regional Information Systems Association's [URISA] 1996 Exemplary Systems in Government [ESIG] NSDI/Data Partnership Systems Award will be presented to the State Library's Natural Resources Information System for its GIS Data Clearinghouse in Salt Lake City on August 1st. URISA found that NRIS has made a significant commitment to improving services through the implementation of information systems.

## Commission News

**At the May 30/31 meeting:** The State Library Commission awarded FY 96 LSCA Non-construction grants to: Livingston Internet Link - $6,289; and Big Net (Hardin) - $41,224 from Title I; Missoula Public Library Online - $35,500 from Title II; and Having Electronic Library Pages (Libby) - $17,526; SLATE (Miles City) - $25,308; Eagle Link (Sidney) - $16,680; Linking Central to the World (Butte Central) - $10,633; and NorCentralNet (Havre) - $53,000 from Title III. This action followed appeals of the initial grant awards by Hardin and Libby.

At the same meeting, the Commission heard recommendations from the Advisory Council to 1) change the focus of federal funding "from local competitive grants towards funding projects with statewide impact and/or economics of scale; and 2) apply any non-directed carryover monies from FY 95, FY 96 and FY 97 process toward statewide impact projects. The Commission voted to take those recommendations under advisement.

Bruce Newell of the Lewis and Clark Library, Helena asked the Commission to earmark $25,000 a year

for FY 97 and FY 98 to support interstate Internet access for Montana libraries. A motion was passed "that the Commission philosophically agrees with the statewide interstate multi-type Internet access and asks the State Librarian to come to August meeting with funding ideas."

## Public Library News

**Mill Levies Pass!** Thanks to Gallatin County Library supporters the mill levy passed on June 4th.

The Bozeman Public Library will be instituting changes that the increased funding make possible over the next few months. Some of these changes are increased hours, additional programs, and more electronic resources.

The mill levy for the Lincoln County Public Library in Libby and the branch libraries in Troy and Eureka also passed. This will allow the three libraries to remain open and maintain services for the next 7 years.

The mill levy for Teton County, affecting the libraries in Choteau, Dutton and Fairfield, failed.

**Itinerary set for "The Frontier in American Culture:"** The Missoula Public Library and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln will be the first of 30 libraries to host "The Frontier in American Culture" traveling exhibition. The exhibit is sponsored by the ALA in cooperation with the Newberry Library Chicago, and funded by a $350,000 grant from the national Endowment for the Humanities.

## More Montana News

**MLA Election:** About 250 members of the Montana Library Association voted in the recent election. The results of that election are:

**Vice-President/President-Elect** [three year term] Darlene Staffeldt, Montana State Library, Helena

**Secretary-Treasurer** [two year term] Bonnie Williamson, Havre-Hill County Library, Havre

**MPLA Representative** [two year term] Avis Anderson, Dawson county High School Library, Glendive [Avis just retired, Congratulations!]

**PNLA Representative** [two year term] Gloria Langstaff, Bitterroot Public Library, Hamilton

**Director at Large - West** [two year term] Bruce Newell, Lewis & Clark Public Library, Helena

## National News

**"Excellent" library service programs for young adults sought:** The Young Adult Library Services Association [YALSA], a division of ALA, will select up to fifty exemplary programs and services in all types of libraries to include in a second edition of "Excellence in Library Service to Young Adults." The top five programs will receive stipends of $500 each. Forty-five will receive stipends of $100. The deadline is October 1. Winners will be announced at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Washington, D.C., February 14-20, 1997. Contact: YALSA, 800-545-2433x4390, E-mail: yalsa@ala.org, or YALSA section on ALA's Home Page: http://www.ala.org.

**Top Ten Teen Best Books, Quick Picks named:** The teen novel "Ironman," by Chris Crutcher [Greenwillow, 1995], is the only book to appear on both the Best Books and Quick Picks Top Ten lists announced by the YALSA of ALA.

The Top Ten lists were selected from the annual Best Books for Young Adults and Quick Picks listings form YALSA. Contact: YALSA 800-545-2433x4390 or E-mail: yalsa@ala.org, or ALA Home page: http://www.ala.org.

**ALA Awards Honorary Life Memberships:** Honorary life membership-the highest honor awarded by the ALA-was presented to four retiring legislative champions and to the former director of the ALA Washington Office at the 50th Anniversary Celebration held in May. Among those awarded a life membership was U.S. Representative Pat Williams, D-Montana.

**"Fifty Years of Notable Books" published:** A half-century of titles honored as Notable Books by the ALA are contained in a new publication "Fifty Years of Notable Books."

The Notable Books Council, a committee of the Reference and Adult Services Division of the ALA, selects the titles each year. Titles are selected based on whether a book possesses exceptional literary merit; expands the horizons of human knowledge; makes a specialized body of knowledge accessible to the non-specialist; or promises to contribute significantly to the solution of a contemporary problem.

The most represented author on the lists is Winston Churchill, who appears nine times.

Cost $16.95. Contact ALA Order Fulfillment, 800-545-2433press7.

**MPLA Newsletter has a new editor:** Heidi Nickisch, MPLA, I.D. Weeks library, 414 E. Clark Street, Vermillion, SD 57069, 605-677-6088, E-mail: nickisch@sundance.usd.edu.

**ALA welcomes CDA ruling:** ALA officials welcomed the decision of a federal district court panel on June 12 declaring the new Communications Decency Act unconstitutional, saying it protects both librarians and public access to information.

The ALA was the lead plaintiff in a suit filed by the citizens Internet Empowerment Coalition, a coalition of organizations which also includes

online providers, publishers, parents and other groups. The suit challenged the Act on the grounds that it is overly broad and so vaguely worded that it would subject librarians and other members of the public to criminal prosecution for posting materials online that are legal in other media.

Under the Communications Decency Act, passed in February as part of the Telecommunications Reform Act of 1996, any person who knowingly sends or displays materials over the Internet that could be interpreted as "indecent" or "patently offensive by contemporary community standards" could be imprisoned for up to two years and fined up to $250,000. The legislation, however, never explicitly defined what "indecent" meant. For the libraries nationwide that provide Internet access, that ambiguity meant possible prosecution, and a chilling effect on this revolutionary medium.

**What's Next?** The Justice Department has 20 days from June 11 to decide whether to appeal the decision to the United States Supreme Court. This is the expected course of action since President Clinton has indicated that he wants the legislation reviewed by the Supreme Court. If the government does appeal this case, its anticipated that it will be argued in January or February, 1997, with a decision before the court adjourns in the summer of 1997.

Any and all complaints to the Justice Department made under the CDA, such as the American Family Association's charge in April that the CompuServe's MacGlamour Forum violated the CDA will be suspended unless the Supreme Court reverses the decision of the special three judge federal panel.

In anticipation of an appeal to the Supreme Court, ALA and the Foundation, along with other CIEC members, are continuing their work with the Jenner and Block legal team, headed by Bruce Ennis. Legal expenses are expected to reach over $1 million. The Freedom to Read Foundation has contributed $100,000 toward those expenses and in May, the ALA Board approved the expenditure of $250,000 to offset the legal expenses.

**New ALA President and Treasurer:** Barbara J. Ford, executive director of University Library Services at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, has been elected president of the ALA for the 1997-98 term. Bruce E. Daniels, director of the Onondaga County Public Library in Syracuse, N.Y., and a member of the ALA Executive Board, was elected treasurer. Daniels reported that ALA is sound financially and would continue to pursue ALA's Goal 2000.

## Calendar

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| August 20 | Open House for new State Librarian-Helena |
| August 21 | State Library Commission Meeting-Helena |
| October 3 | State Library Commission Meeting-Dillon |
| October 14 | Columbus Day-State Holiday |
| November 5 | Election Day-State Holiday |
| November 11 | Veterans Day-State Holiday |
| November 15 | Advisory Council Meeting-Helena |

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